

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 L-03 /109 W

----- 095294

R 140820Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2397

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0173

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: MANIFESTATIONS OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT

MOZAMBIQUE FOR PRIME MINISTER CAETANO

REF: LOURENCO MARQUEF 159

QM AFTER SLOW START, MANIFESTATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR PRIME MINISTER CAETANO'S POLICY AS SET FORTH IN HIS SPEECH OF MARCH 5 HAVE BEEN GATHERING STEAM IN MOZAMBIQUE. SUPPORT TELEGRAMS HAVE BEEN POURING IN FROM LIHERALLY EVERY COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT THE STATE. LARGE DEMONSTRATION HELD MARCH 11 IN PORTO AMELIA IN WHICH REPORTEDLY "THOUSANDS" FROM ALL ETHNIC GROUPINGS GATHERED IN FRONT OF GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE OVERSEAS POLICY AND CONTINUATION OF MOZAMBIQUE AS PART OF GREATER PORTUGAL. SIMILAR MANIFESTATION TOOK PLACE MARCH 13 IN QUELIMANE, AND DOUBTLESS MORE WILL FOLLOW ELSEWHERE.

2. IN LOURENCO MARQUES PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES LAID ON GREAT OUTPOURING OF SPONTANEOUS ENTHUSIASM. AT 1600 HOURS ON MARCH 11 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WAS CALLED INTO SPECIAL
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SESSION TO PASS MOTION OF SUPPORT AND FIDELITY. EVERYBODY

WHO IS ANYBODY WAS PACKED INTO SWELTERING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HALL TO WITNESS OCCASION. (AS HAS BECOME NORMAL AT SUCH GATHERINGS, CHAIRS RESERVED FOR CONSULAR CORPS WERE GRABBED BY FIRST ONSLAUGHT OF OBSERVERS.) AFTER CLERK OF ASSEMBLY HAD DRONED OUT TEXTS OF VARIOUS TELEGRAMS JUST RECEIVED, THE MOTION WAS READ DUTIFULLY AND UNEMOTIONALLY BY VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, SARTERIO PIRES, AN OLD HAND AT THIS SORT OF THING. SUPPORTING REMARKS PREPARED IN ADVANCE WERE READ OUT PERFUNCTORILY BY ASSEMBLY MEMBERS LEONARDO BUCUCHA (BLACK), JOAO JOSE CRAVEIRINHA (MULATTO), AND JOSE ANTONIO MARRANA (WHITE). GOVERNOR GENERAL PIMENTEL DOS SANTOS CLIMAXED THE OCCASION BY LAUDING THE MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLE WHO "THROUGH VOICE OF THEIR FREELY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES HAVE MANIFESTED ONCE MORE THEIR FIDELITY TO THE FATHERLAND AND TO THE NATION INTO WHICH IT IS INTEGRATED". MOTION WAS PASSED WITHOUT OPPOSITION# CEREMONY CLOSED WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL LEADING PROCESSION OUT ONTO BALCONY WHERE HE ENGAGED IN UNEDIFYING SPECTACLE OF LEADING CHEERS BY SEVERAL THOUSAND ONLOOKERS BELOW, MAINLY AFRICANS BROUGHT INTO TOWN FOR THE OCCASION. STORES, BANKS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES WERE CLOSED DURING AFTERNOON TO ALLOW POPULACE TO ATTEND ABOVE AFFAIR. CROWD WAS CONCENTRATED AROUND ASSEMBLY HALL, BUT ELSEWHERE IN CITY, LIFE PROCEEDED NORMELLY.

3. COMMENT: AS SPINOLA'S BOOK HAS NOT YET APPEARED LOCALLY, WHILE CAETANO'S SPEECH HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLICISED, CITIZENRY CANNOT HAVE HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE MERITS OF THE OPTIONS PRESENTED. PROBABLY MAIN USEFULNESS OF ABOVE MANIFESTATIONS, OTHER THAN WHATEVER SOLACE PRIME MINISTER MAY DERIVE FROM SUCH EXPRESSIONS OF UNANIMOUS SUPPORT, IS AS PEP RALLY TO RAISE FLAGGING SPIRITS OF URBAN DWELLERS, DEPRESSED DURING LAST FEW MONTHS BY INCREASINGLY SEVERE ECONOMIC DOLDRUMS, BY UNPLEASANT TURN OF EVENTS IN BEIRA DISTRICT, AND BY CUMULATIVE LASSITUDE RESULTING FROM LONGER THAN USUAL HOT SEASON.

VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00173
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740344/aaaaboxw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LOURENCO MARQUEF 159
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MANIFESTATIONS OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MOZAMBIQUE FOR PRIME MINISTER CAETANO
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005